Setting Up Advisory & Who Teaches It:

In the High School Academic Policy Guide for school year 2018-19, the following language was added to clarify advisory:

- “NYSED has commencement-level learning standards in the following subject areas: English language arts; social studies; mathematics; science; technology; arts education (including visual arts, music, dance and theater); languages other than English; health, physical education, family and consumer sciences; and career development and occupational studies. Commencement-level learning standards and assessments reflect the knowledge, skills, and understandings all students are expected to know and be able to do upon receiving a high school diploma. Courses that do not align to these high school-level standards, including elective courses, may not bear credit. There are no standards in “guidance” or “advisory”; such courses generally should not bear credit. See the section of this guide on electives.” (pg. 11)

- “Courses that do not align to high school learning standards: Schools may not award credit for courses that do not meet NYSED commencement-level learning standards. This includes courses that meet middle school standards, or guidance courses that do not align to one of NYSED’s commencement-level learning standards.69 For example, students may not receive credit for a course aligned to pre-algebra standards designed to prepare students for a high school algebra course. Guidance or advisory courses generally should not bear credit. NYSED does not have commencement-level learning standards in guidance. If credit-bearing, these courses should be coded more accurately to align with the NYSED commencement-level learning standards being taught. The teacher of record’s certification must correspond with the standards and content of the course. See the section of this guide on electives.” (pg. 38)

Schools continue to struggle with this despite the guidance provided to ensure that subject-certified teachers instruct guidance and advisory courses. The Office of Academic Policy and Systems will continue to emphasize through their policy guidance and during their in-person trainings that all credit-bearing experiences, including guidance and advisory, must align to NYSED learning standards and be taught by a teacher who is certified in that subject area.